



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week Ending: October 14, 2012

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 14, 2012

Moderate temperatures and clear skies allowed field work to continue steadily across Virginia this week. Although a few areas of the state received the first frost of the season, no crop damage has been reported. Days suitable for field work were 5.5. For those producers concentrating on harvesting, early soybeans and tobacco were the targets this week, with some corn harvest being delayed due to moisture levels. Peanut harvest is also moving forward with average to better than average yields being reported. In addition, hay cutting has been a major activity with recent weather being ideal for growth. Many are reporting getting a third and fourth cutting of their hay crop. In other areas, small grain planting took precedence, as well as, field preparation through applications of lime, fertilizer, and burn down herbicides.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 14, 2012	1	21	74	4
October 7, 2012	1	14	74	11
September 30, 2012	2	23	74	1
September 23, 2012	2	19	74	5
September 16, 2012	4	28	64	4

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 14, 2012	2	25	70	3
October 7, 2012	2	24	72	2
September 30, 2012	3	27	69	1
September 23, 2012	4	23	70	3
September 16, 2012	6	32	60	2

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	9	28	53	9
Livestock	1	5	18	53	23
Hay, Other	5	14	27	41	13
Hay, Alfalfa	1	5	20	49	25
Soybeans	1	3	15	65	16
Barley	0	0	2	94	4
Peanuts	0	0	11	70	19
Cotton	0	0	10	71	19

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested	91	86	82	77
Corn Silage Harvested	96	93	98	98
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	74	51	62	75
Soybeans Harvested	8	3	8	13
Winter Wheat Seeded	27	17	35	22
Winter Wheat Emerged	8	4	0	4
Barley Seeded	72	52	58	59
Tobacco, Flue Harvested	91	87	86	85
Peanuts Dug	60	35	40	54
Peanuts Combined	19	11	18	35
Cotton Bolls Opening	99	95	95	94
Cotton Harvested	14	3	27	30
Apples, Fall Harvested	97	95	66	79
Apples, Winter Harvested	74	64	50	52
Oats for Grain	54	NA	62	44

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 14, 2012

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct. 13 normal	Mar. 1 to Oct. 13 normal	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	62	40	71	36	51	-8	4017	3698	0.33	3.13	-2.26	25.67	-9.49
Norfolk	65	52	70	45	59	-5	4712	4134	1.70	3.17	-2.39	35.85	-1.88
Richmond	63	45	72	39	54	-7	4546	4006	0.84	5.10	-0.44	30.48	-5.37
Roanoke	61	42	71	39	51	-8	4220	NA	0.44	4.71	-0.52	29.53	-5.21
Wash/Dulles	60	40	69	30	50	-8	4109	NA	0.16	5.24	0.00	25.29	-7.98

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

The county received a frost/freeze on October 13, 2012. It is the first frost of the season. I have not heard about any crops being affected.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Clear seasonal early autumn weather allowed field work to progress steadily in the Rockbridge region. Pasture and hay conditions remain excellent with some 3rd or 4th cutting hay having been mowed this week. Some patchy frost was observed Friday morning but the vast majority of Rockbridge remains frost free.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

It was a cool week last week, but no freeze or frost. Lowest was 39 overnight, highest was 75 on Saturday. Monday - Thursday high temperatures reached low to mid 60's.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Soybean harvest is continuing at a rapid pace. Corn harvest is slow due to moisture levels. Winter wheat seeding is moving at a fast pace. Some dark tobacco is being prepared for market.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

It was a cool week with no frost or freeze warnings. Low temperatures at night 39 degrees - highs low to mid 60's.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Another mostly mild and entirely dry week aided in fall harvest and planting activities. Some hay was harvested. The weekend brought the first frost at my Western Hanover home. I have not yet spoken to anyone from the central or eastern part of the county to see if there was frost in those parts of the county. Early bean harvest is winding down and late bean harvest is not yet cranked up. Lots of small grain and cover crop has been planted. The entire week has been dry and the soil moisture is again becoming an issue. No meaningful rain in several weeks now and the normally wet areas are very dry.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Small grain planting was the primary activity this week. A few soybeans were harvested late in the week with good yields being reported for the most part.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

We received rain a couple days this week, but temps remained in the 60-70 range. It has been lovely fall weather! Get those crops in and covered. Hay will last longer if covered or stored in a building. The last cutting of hay is looking good.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

It keeps raining at the beginning of the week. I am hoping that we will get a significant amount today. We're still a little short in subsoil moisture. Last hay cutting is underway and most people are finishing up with that. Some tobacco producers have finished harvesting while others still have a fair amount left. With some tobacco finished though, more attention is being given to the beans and we are getting close to harvesting the early beans here. Milo/grain sorghum is still standing. Livestock look good.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Last week some cooler temperatures helped to yellow soybean leaves and these began to drop. Peanuts were combined in the county as well. Tobacco harvest is getting closer to complete, with bales headed to the pickup stations weekly. Last minute hay cutting and baling is underway.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Fall harvest advanced again late in the week after rain showers dampened conditions last weekend. Peanut harvest is moving forward with most of the crop dug with average or better yields. Soybean harvest is picking up speed with early maturity varieties coming out of the field dry. Growers are gearing up for barley and wheat seeding by applying lime, fertilizer, and burndown herbicides.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

(Southeastern Continued)

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Surry corn harvest is almost complete with very good yields at 120-180 bushels per acre. Peanut harvest is starting with cotton and soybeans close behind. Yields are very good on those as well.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Tobacco and vegetable harvests are winding down and awaiting the first killing frost. Some grass and alfalfa hay are being cut as fall weather has been prime for growth. Most farmers are looking at 3 grass cuttings and 6 alfalfa cuttings this year.